1. **Title of the module**

LAWS3270 (LW327) - The English Legal System and Skills

1. **Division or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Division for the Study of Law, Society and Social Justice (Kent Law School)

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 4

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

4 credits, non-contributory (2 ECTS)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn (term 1) and Spring term (term 2)

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

None

1. **The courses of study to which the module contributes**

All undergraduate law courses

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to demonstrate:**
2. the basic principles of the English Legal System.
3. the law-making process.
4. the court structure and administrative justice system.
5. legal research skills
6. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
7. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the library and conduct research using electronic sources and paper materials.
8. Read and evaluate cases, including the ability to identify *ratio decidendi* and *obiter dicta*.
9. Demonstrate a working knowledge of OSCOLA citation method and ability to provide legal citations.
10. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

Part A: English Legal System  
This module provides an overview of the English Legal System, including the following indicative topics:

* 1. An introduction to Parliament and the legislative process
  2. The court structure and the doctrine of precedent
  3. An introduction to case law, including how to identify and the importance of ratio decidendi and obiter dicta

Part B: Introduction to Legal Skills

The module also gives students an introduction to the basic legal skills that they will develop further in their other modules throughout the degree. The focus here is on specific exercises to support exploration and use of the library resources that are available, both in paper copy and electronically through the legal databases, and on understanding practices of legal citation.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

* E. Finch and S., Fafinski *Legal Skills* (5th ed, 2015 OUP).
* A. Gillespie, The English *Legal System* (6th ed, 2017 OUP)

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours: 10

Private study hours: 30

Total study hours: 40

1. **Assessment methods**

*The overall mark for the module will be pass/fail and students will be required to pass both elements.*

* 1. Main assessment methods

Legal Research Skills Multiple Choice Test - 50% - pass/fail – PASS COMPULSORY

Poster and diary – 50% - pass/fail- PASS COMPULSORY

13.2 Reassessment methods

Like for like

1. ***Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section12) and methods of assessment (section 13)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 |
| **Learning / teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lectures | X | X | X |  | X | X |  |
| Library tour/exercise | X |  |  |  | X |  | X |
| Private Study | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Legal research skills Multiple Choice Test (50%) | X | X | X |  |  | X |  |
| Poster and diary (50%) | X | X | X | X | X |  | X |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The Division recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

n/a

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 27/03/17 | Minor | September 2017 | 11,12,14 | No |
| 02/09/2021 | Major | September 2021 | 13, 14 |  |

Revised FSO Jan 2018